Comment by @arthurcolyer5530 January 2026:

This sounds like a painful degree of hyperfixation, I hope things get better with that.

A very interesting rant, just...:

1) "Ping" is a computing term meaning "query (another computer on a network) to determine whether there is a connection to it." I can understand missing that with all the other undefined terms, but that one is a Real Life word.

2) you do not seem to get along with this writing style. That's not a bad thing, but lots of the "problems" and "really fucking stupid" grammar and phrasing choices were things I liked and got along well with. I also loved the low-detail world-building, which you clearly didn't.

(There should be an "if you hate this author, consider reading..." list attached to books. Only counterpoint I can think of is Tolkien)

3) based on 2), I'm not convinced of your conclusions about the author's attitudes/politics. Maybe it was clear in another of her works or in interviews, and I think I can see where you're coming from, but...

(...)

I'm not going to be able to enunciate that properly. Some of your thoughts on the nature of enslavement in the books echo ones I've had myself, and some have inspired more rumination, but I don't think it's wrong for a book to simply present a fucked up situation and leave the thinking to the audience-

(I think I've just talked myself to "the point of a book is to talk about it" and I should probably stop now)

(Sorry for the long comment, good luck with the rest of this or any other endeavours)

Reply by Twinsgardening January 2026:

Edit: Also, I really do not appreciate random people assuming that I'm hyperfixating just because I'm talking about something. Please don't do that. Armchair diagnosing isn't okay. I am choosing to talk about this because I think it's the right thing to do, not because I'm autistic / have ADHD. I know you probably didn't intend it that way, but it's very demeaning to hear what I'm choosing to spend a lot of my time and energy doing reduced down to a "hyperfixation".

Especially because I don't know what you're trying to say with "I hope things get better with that".

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1) Yes, I'm aware that ping is a real life word, but that doesn't excuse the lack of explanation for *how it functions in this universe*, which is why I kept specifying "what does that mean in this setting?" It is her job as the author to give us all the necessary information on how this setting works, ***especially when she is charging so much for these extremely short stories***.

2) These books are expensive. Basic worldbuilding is not asking too much, it's the bare minimum. It would be fine if they weren't filled to the brim with bigotry, or a quarter of the cost of what they are, but they are blatant cheap cash grabs with no effort put in, because the goal isn't to tell a good story, it's to scam as much money out of people as possible. Hence why I keep mentioninig they're trying to charge people

$80+ for what ammounts to a single short novel, which was very blatantly artificially chopped into 4, so that they could sell each 25% for the price of a full-length novel with actual worldbuilding, characterization, and basic morality in actually condemning slavery and not worshipping slave owners.

Also, I hate Tolkein. The option for "books that have any worldbuilding or care put into them at all" is pretty much every other book in existance. It's not a high bar whatsoever. It's the bare minimum, and one that almost every other book manages to accomplish. Tolkein is not the only author in existance who's ever done worldbuilding, and it's not very good that he's the only person you can think of for a "counterpoint" to the complete lackthereof in The Murderbot Diaries.

You can even go and read The Imperial Radch series by Ann Leckie, which was Martha Wells' self-admited

direct inspiration for The Murderbot Diaries. You can see everything she's stealing, and then fumbling.

The lack of worldbuilding, characterization, setting, and *actual plot* is not a purposeful writing choice for this series. It's not characterized narration, this is how she writes everything, and how she has always written everything, despite charging absurdly high prices them. Again. It would be fine, minus the bigotry, if the max price she were charging for each of these was $1. Because she's not putting in any of the actual effort, but then is still demanding the price of **an actuall full length novel with worldbuilding and characterization*.

3) Thank you for realizing the proper rejoinder to your own question, lol. The point of a book is, indeed, to talk about it.

And I think you know, from realizing you were going to say something wrong, that these books aren't actually framing the things they're about properly.

If these books were actually sucessfully framing slavery and dehumanization of physically disabled people (and so much more) as horrific, we wouldn't be expected to worship the PreservationAux team, or Miki's owners, or ART's owners, and we sure as shit wouldn't be expected to think it's awesome and cool how the protagonists keep murdering and torturing slaves.

I don't know if youtube will let me put a link here, but you should check out Planet of the Apes as American Myth: Race, Politics, and Popular Culture. It's free to borrow from the Internet Archive, and there's a few copies floating around on ebay and stuff.

Before you read that, go watch the original Planet of the Apes movies. Yes I'm serious. They're from the 60s and 70s. You can find them in multiple places online, and depending on where you live, you can probably buy a cheap DVD collection somewhere for like $10. For Conquest (you'll know when you get there), try to find the unrated director's cut version. The literal, actual Censor didn't let them publish that version, because it was, I'm not joking, too radically anti-white supremacy.

If you can't find that version, just watch the easier to find one, and when you get to the end scene, if Lisa starts talking, pause, and look for the original ending which I'm sure is somewhere here on youtube. It's more violent, for obvious reasons. They're killing the slave owners, who are literally in Nazi uniforms.

Anyways yeah I'm being very serious. Watch the original Planet of the Apes movies. And then borrow

or buy a copy of Planet of the Apes as American Myth, and read that.

A book cannot, as you understand, simply use slavery as set dressing and *not actually talk about how horrific slavery is*. A book cannot simply use slavery as set dressing and then tell us to worship slave owners above all else, especially the safety and lives of slaves, and be considered progressive or anti-racist. That's not how this works.

It's not in the purview of a white woman from Texas, who've been writing slavery apologism and explicit and implicit racism into her books for over two decades now, (The Murderbot Diaries is not her first book series. She has been doing this for decades. Literally just now in 2025 she republished one of her older books and kept in the statement that "brown people belong in the fields, white people are posh gentlemen" in without any fucking remorse) to simply use slavery as set dressing, even if this weren't

literally asking us at every turn to worship slave owners and cheer on the murder and torture of slaves.

Here's a quote from the introduction to Planet of the Apes as American Myth:

“In a larger sense, his study teaches us how—and why—we need to study the phenomena of contemporary popular culture. The images and myths we take for granted as part of the world of entertainment often have deep historical roots and evoke powerful, persuasive ideological traditions. Only by examining that history, and subjecting those myths to critical analysis, can we move beyond the moral and conceptual limitations of our mythic traditions—and escape the fatal choices that doom ‘the planet of the apes’.” -- Quote from Richard Slotkin, Page IX.

Thank you for your comment, and thank you for actually taking the time to think through your response. You get a thumb's up from me! Keep up the good work. Keep thinking, and asking yourself why this author wants us to worship slave owners, and cheer on when ART rips a slave limb from limb in System Collapse.

Edit 2: Also, if this is the only video in this series of mine you've watched, you can go ahead and watch the 13 that come before this one. You can see first hand all of the ways slavery and the horrific abuses it entails is downplayed and glossed over.

I'll just go ahead and assume that you, like everyone else in this fandom, didn't even notice that they didn't give Murderbot any medical attention, forced it to walk back to its cell under its own power despite it being in the middle of dying, then Mensah came to harass it while it was actively trying to calm down from almost dying, then made it clean its own blood

off the floor after it woke up from its coma that it was only in because it almost died to save Bharadwaj and Volescu, and then none of them, and then not one sngle person said so much as a thank you, let alone an "are you okay"? And then didn't give it any time off whatsoever and sent it back to work, as a slave, immediately, without acknowledging that it was a person whatsoever? For DAYS?

That's because Martha Wells wrote the books so you wouldn't notice, so you'd just go along with the vibes of "awww these slave owners are so sweet and respectful!" based on none of their actual actions in the book, just what Martha Wells tells us to believe.